



Fire Department

William Wentlandt
Chief
Mark A. Sain
Assistant Chief

MEDIA ADVISORY STATE ADOPTS NEW MUTIAL AID PLAN

For Immediate Release

The state of Wisconsin has officially adopted MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System); this makes Wisconsin only one of about five states to adopt such a statewide system.

The idea of MABAS is to improve fire service communications interoperability and assist with incident management of an emergency be it a major fire, natural disaster or a man made catastrophe. This system will tie in directly to issues like homeland security, disaster preparedness and terrorism response. (Illinois sent a number of MABAS units to the south during hurricane Katrina)

MABAS is a program that started in Illinois back in the 1960's the idea was to have a mutual aid system that would benefit all communities no matter what their size.

MABAS currently covers over 550 departments with 25,000+ firefighters, 900+ engine companies, 275+ ladder companies and numerous other pieces of fire equipment in four states.

When MABAS is activated the incident commander knows what type of equipment is at their disposal and that there is a minimum staffing for each type of equipment. Depending on the size of the department MABAS can be activated at any time. The MABAS program also supplies a dispatch system that could be used to free up local dispatchers if needed.

The Milwaukee Fire Department is looking forward to being an active member in Wisconsin's MABAS program.

If any media outlet would like assist the department and have an interview with a member of the department relating to these issues or any other fire safety issues please feel free to call Lieutenant Brian O'Connor at (414)-286-8968.

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